

# WCGS News

Volume XI, No. 6

June 2000

## Old News

*From Area Newspapers*

### Barbara M. Revels

WCGS Recording Secretary

### Native of County Died on Tuesday

Jim F. Hardison, native of this county and a retired farmer, died at his home near Plymouth Tuesday evening at 8:45 o'clock. He had been in declining health about three years and confined to his bed three weeks.

The son of Mrs. Florence Hardison and the late Levin C. Hardison, he was born in Williams Township, 67 years ago on August 12, 1887. After spending most of his life on the farm in this county, he located in Washington County where he continued to farm until declining health forced his retirement. He was married to Miss Lizzie Gardener of this county in 1911. He was a member of the St. Delights Church of Christ.

Surviving besides his widow and mother are two daughters Mrs. Dare Reason of near Williamston and Mrs. Lois Hassell of La Rochelle, France; six sons, Dewey, James, Herbert, Paul and Garland Hardison, all of Plymouth and Billy Hardison of Williams Township, this county; three sisters, Mrs. John Price of Jamesville, Mrs. Lonnie Jackson of Roper and Mrs. Chris Styron of Plymouth; three brothers, Perlle and George H. Hardison of Jamesville and C. B. Hardison of Edenton.

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## Obituaries

### Charles B. Craddock

Charles Bennett Craddock, 78, Roper native, resident of Livingston, ALA., died 24 May 2000 at home. His funeral was held at Eutaw United Methodist Church, Eutaw, Ala., with burial in Siloam Cemetery. Craddock was one of the original actors and stage hands in "The Lost Colony" outdoor drama. He was a chief petty officer in the U. S. Coast Guard in World War II. A graduate of Freewill Baptist College, Nashville, TN, he was a Freewill Baptist minister for 26 years. He was survived by his wife, Aileen D., five sons: Charles O. Craddock, Virginia Beach; Philip D. Craddock, Ozark, Ala.; Daniel B. Craddock, Livingston, Ala.; Timothy S. Craddock, York, Ala.; Mark N. Craddock, Citronelle, Ala.; (Philip and Timothy are also ministers); a brother: David Craddock, Winterville, NC; 3 sisters: Mildred Haire, Creswell; Frances Scott, Hertford; Iris Rae Bennett, Laurel, MD; 10 grandchildren. (WDN 5/25/2000) wcg

### From our mailbox:

Citizen Daniel (1775-1835) And The Call Of America, Early Correspondence of the Constables of Horley; J. Brian Jenkins. 480 pp.; 18 b/w ill., bibliography, and index. ISBN 0-9667018-0-1 \$75.00 (includes U. S. book rate or overseas surface). Order at [www.citizendaniel.com](http://www.citizendaniel.com) or send check or money order payable to: Aardvark Editorial Services, 3490 Main Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06120; 1-800-278-8359.

"Lenoir County, NC Death Records Volume 1" soft bound book includes abstracts of actual death certificates taken from the first five record books located in Lenoir County Register of Deeds Office, Kinston, NC; not an index. Order from: Susan S. Moody, 209 Cobb Road, Kinston NC 28501; \$45 includes shipping.

North Carolina Genealogical Society: Call for nominations for 2000 NCGS Awards; deadline 1 September 2000; nominations for excellence in publishing single book of abstracts or transcriptions of original North Carolina primary source material; set or series of abstracts or transcriptions of original North Carolina primary source material; outstanding contribution for family history; for individual genealogical contributions; outstanding

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Funeral services are being conducted in the Plymouth Christian Church this afternoon at 2:00 o'clock by the Rev. P. E. Cayton and the Rev. J. D. Waters. Interment will be in the Hardison Cemetery near Plymouth. Source: *The Enterprise*, Williamston, NC; Thursday, 17 February 1955.

#### Personal

"The Roanoke Beacon," newspaper published in Plymouth, carried the following personal in its March 23, 1894, edition:

"Mrs. Dennis Simmons and Mrs. Dorsey (Dawson) Biggs, of Williamston, were among the welcome visitors to our town this week." Source: *The Enterprise*, Tobacco Edition, August 1956..

#### Pro at Plymouth Dies

James B. Kinnear, professional at the Plymouth Country Club, died last night at 11:00 o'clock, it was reported this morning. Coming to the club in 1943, he left for work in Texas a year or so, but came back again. He was a native of Scotland and a popular pro. Source: *The Enterprise*, 15 February 1955.

#### Wedding Write-up in Old Newspaper

The "Roanoke Beacon," newspaper published in Plymouth, carried the following account of the marriage of Miss Hattie Lawrence to Mr. A. L. Harrison in its edition of December 8, 1898:

"On Wednesday morning, December 21<sup>st</sup> (probably the 1<sup>st</sup>), 1898 at 8:00 o'clock at the home of the bride's father in Hamilton, N. C., Mr. A. L. Harrison of Plymouth and Miss Hattie Lawrence were united in holy bonds of matrimony. The attendants were Miss Modie Harrison of Plymouth with Mr. S. O. Lynn of Suffolk, Va. Miss Alma House of Greenville with B. N. Allsbrook of Scotland Neck, Miss Annie Long of Hamilton with Gordon House of Hobgood, Miss Adelia Skittleharp of Plymouth with Sherrod Salsbury of Hamilton. The Wedding March was artistically rendered by Miss Mary Baker of Hamilton. After the ceremony which was performed by the bride's father, Elder M. L. Lawrence, the bridal party left for the home of the groom's mother, Mrs. Emily Harrison near Plymouth where a reception was held. Many good wishes are for this popular couple as they have many friends."

Mr. Harrison, a minister, died some years ago. Mrs. Harrison continues to make her home at 43 Cloud Street, Front Royal, Virginia, where she is prominently connected with the "Gospel Messenger," a publication of the Primitive Baptist Church. Source: *The Enterprise*, Tobacco Edition August 1956.

#### Wedding Account in Old Newspaper

A Martin County girl was married on Wednesday evening March 21, 1894, to a Plymouth man, "The Roanoke Beacon," newspaper published in Plymouth carrying in its edition of March 23, 1894, the following account of the wedding:

#### Married

"On Wednesday evening at 8:00 o'clock at the home of the bride's parents near Dardens, Mr. O. T. Ayers, of Plymouth, was united in marriage to Miss Clara Swinson, of Dardens, Rev. W. W. Gurkin officiating. Our Congratulations, young friends." *The Enterprise*, Tobacco Edition August 1956.

#### Messrs. Hines and Lilley Entertain

Messrs. Emmet Hines and Lon ? Lilley entertained a number of their friends at the tobacco barn of Mr. Hines Wednesday night with a chicken stew and barbecue. There was also plenty of Brunswick stew, bread and relishes to go with the barbecue.

All those present spent a most delightful evening with these two hospitable gentlemen. Source: *The Enterprise*, Friday 21 August 1925. wogs

#### New and returning members

Joan S. Boudreaux, 1502 SE Greenville Blvd,  
Greenville NC 27858 [jboudreaux@nc.freei.net](mailto:jboudreaux@nc.freei.net)  
252 756 2678; Researching: Spruill, Chaplin, Patrick,  
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Reynolds, Leiphart,

Patricia A. Blend  
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#### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

##### JULY MEETING

TYRRELL COUNTY - 2:30 P.M. SUNDAY, 23 JULY JOINT MEETING  
WITH TCG&HS

##### AUGUST MEETING

FIRST OFWB CHURCH - FELLOWSHIP HALL - 2:30 P.M. - 20  
AUGUST - SPEAKER TO BE ANNOUNCED

DON'T FORGET THE JULY MEETING WITH TYRRELL  
COUNTY GENEALOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY -  
IF YOU WANT TO SHARE A RIDE, CONTACT A WCGS  
MEMBER! 2:30 - 23 JULY 2000

**Gordon Basnight informs us the 1840 Washington  
County Census can now be found online. Watch for our  
announcement re its availability as a hard copy.**

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN WASHINGTON COUNTY:

### HISTORIC MARKER DEDICATED

Members of Perseverance Lodge No. 59, A. F. & A. M., family members and guests met on Saturday, 10 June, for breakfast and to unveil and dedicate a historic marker at the location of the new lodge building on NC 32 South of Plymouth. The marker was unveiled by Clyde Jett, Jr., Master, and Harrison W. Phelps, a past master and currently serving as the Fourth Masonic District Deputy Grand Master. Phelps paid tribute to members of the lodge since before Washington County was created from Tyrrell in 1799, including Col. Edward Buncombe. Phelps challenged members to continue to serve their community and to live up to those brothers who preceded them. He also noted the lodge history was compiled by Jimmy Gilreath and the late Putnam Landing, and edited and updated by the late Reynold Davenport. Phelps expressed appreciation to the Washington County Bicentennial Committee who commissioned the marker as a part of the county's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. Perseverance is Washington County's oldest men's organization. wccgs

Port O'Plymouth Museum: A visit – whether you live in Plymouth and Washington County – or far away, to the Port O'Plymouth Museum is always a treat – Harry L. Thompson has a story to tell, a new document to talk about, or there's something new on the shelves. The Roanoke River Lighthouse t-shirts and caps make neat gifts for young and old; Harry's book: *Bertie Folklore – Tales from Bertie County, North Carolina* makes for good summer reading. Of course – there's still a good supply of *Washington County, NC: a Tapestry* and I continue to be amazed that those books haven't been placed in more homes. If you've ever been interested in Washington County, you need a copy of this book. *My Home is Washington County, North Carolina* is in short supply and once they've gone, they're gone; there are only about two dozen copies remaining. The woven throws, in either of two color combinations, are still available – time to stock up for kids and grandkids.

Re Concord Primitive Baptist Church: Gordon Basnight writes: "My father was born 1 mile west of there in the house where McCoy Davenport now lives. Granddad use to keep prisoners on the farm next to the house."

E-mail address incorrectly listed? Send correction or update to me with "WCGS" in subject line so it can be shared with other members. Thanks!

contributions for a group and for individual member. Contact: Elliott Futrell, NCGS Awards Committee, 101 Crosswinds Dr., Goldsboro NC 27530-9096 or [efutrell@esn.net](mailto:efutrell@esn.net).

NCGS workshops: 1) Sharing Your Findings: Genealogical Writing and Publishing; 8 July, NC State Archives and Library Building, Room 211, Raleigh. Registration \$35 for NCGS members; \$45 non-members.; 2) All Aboard! Amtrak Trip to National Archives – 10 September thru 16 September; ; 3) finding Women: Strategies for Finding and Understanding Your Female Ancestors – Wake County Office Building, Raleigh, 3-4 November 2000. For more information on either of these, write: NCGS, P. O. Box 22, Greenville NC 27835 or e-mail [nccgs@earthlink.net](mailto:nccgs@earthlink.net).

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Board of Directors – WCGS

Lawrence Swain, Corresponding Secretary

Reynold Davenport was one of Washington County's favorite sons. Together with his brothers, Fred Blount and John Forbes, colorful accounts of life in the early 1900s in the village of Mackeys have been preserved for all of us. Anyone who has had access to the Scottish Rite magazine know, too, all about Reynold's writing ability and his dry wit. To everyone's amazement, he wrote a final article as he faced his last days. It has been included in this issue of WCGS News.

Vernon Everett has chosen to resign as treasurer and as a member of the board of WCGS as well as committee appointments as of 31 May. He will be missed. WCGS owes Vernon a great debt of gratitude for his diligent research and contributions to WCGS during its history. We wish him well and hope he'll continue to be a part of the society. wccgs



REYNOLD DAVENPORT, 33°

Well, Billy and B.J.,

*I'll bet this one caught you off base. The two of you were probably sitting back thinking, "Well, we've finally heard the last from that old reprobate." And you deserved to have heard the last of me, for I've been bruising the pages of THE MAGAZINE for 38 1/2 years, far longer than any other contributor. If I could be here to collect my wager, I would bet no one ever approached that mark.*

*When I began doing this, old Charlie Seifert—who never is given the credit he deserved for building the New Bern bodies—was secretary. Then came Bob Pugh, Charlie Potter, and now you. It has been a long haul.*

*If you do a little obit on me, please tell everyone how much I enjoyed all my years in the NB bodies, doing this column, 18 years Master of the 26°, many years a queen in the 31°, many years filling in various slots on short notice in other degrees, working with so many really fine men, being rewarded far more than I deserved and being treated so wonderfully by all.*

*Please do two last things for me: Stop by and have a smoke with MF at each opportunity, and please send her at least three copies of the issue in which this appears, so she will have one for each of the kids. Take Care.*

*Sincerely, Reynold*

After almost forty years, this is absolutely the final installment of "Something Else."

A little while back, I realized that I would not abide much longer in this earthly realm, so I wrote this and left word for it to be mailed to The Bagpipe upon my demise, which occurred March 31, 2000.

But you cannot assume this to be a voice from the tomb, as I have requested I not be buried. What will happen, if my wishes are carried out, any usable spare parts will be transplanted from my mortal remains to someone who needs them, and the remainder will then be turned over to a medical school for whatever use they may have for it. After the medical school has determined, if it can, what in the world made such a poorly-maintained engine keep on running for so many years, I hope that whatever is left of me will be cremated and my ashes returned to members of the family for whatever disposition they may find convenient and environmentally friendly. I wouldn't want to mess up the atmosphere.

Now I do not have anything against undertakers. A number of my friends are or have been practitioners of the mournful art, and I wish them well. But it has long bugged me that so many people feel compelled to spend thousands of dollars to put a dead body into the ground. It is to me about the same as it would be to go to great expense to ceremoniously dispose of a pecan hull. If everyone felt as I do about prestigious caskets and valuable real estate, undertakers would confine their plantings to petunias.

But it was not my purpose in this final bit to dwell upon the mechanics of my removal herefrom. Rather, I wish to say a little about how fortunate I have been and feel. So I wish no pity to be wasted upon

me, I neither deserve it nor desire it. I hope my memorial service will be the occasion of thanksgiving for my life of good fortune, not a time of "tears and flappedoodle," as Huckleberry Finn put it.

Good fortune? Count it up!

I have persisted in breathing well past my biblically allotted three-score-and-ten. I was born to and raised by two parents who far exceeded every measurement for love and excellence. I grew up with two exceptional brothers. I have been married to an absolutely wonderful woman for over a half-century. Together we raised and still cherish as fine a son and as fine a daughter as ever blessed any household. If I have never possessed anything other than my truly great family, I would still have more than abundant cause to be thankful for life.

But there's more—much more.

My work has always been exceedingly interesting and challenging. I never earned a great deal of money, but enough. During virtually all my working life, I was trusted to manage my own time and that of many others. I was left to my own devices; making my own decisions and plotting my own course; with no real supervision, being held accountable for little other than the bottom line. That freedom of action in one's work is itself worth far more than can be easily measured.

I was privileged to enter the army during World War II. Now I did not enjoy the army, not even a little bit, but I hate to envision my shame and embarrassment during the ensuing fifty-odd years if I had not volunteered for induction.

More than four decades of my life I have been actively involved as a member of the Masonic Fraternity. Masonry has

been especially kind to me, as it will be to all men that embrace it. It is an almost flawless organization, having been fine-tuned and polished by many great Masons over a succession of centuries. Though it demands worship of God by its members, it never undertakes to tell them how to worship Him or in what church, synagogue, temple or cathedral; nor does it usurp or seek to usurp the prerogatives of any church or religion. So it has been a source of pain and wonderment to me, and to many others, that so many have sought through malice, or envy, or mostly ignorance, to destroy this great institution which has contributed so much to our glorious nation for more than two and a half centuries.

But this will pass, as it has always passed in similar periods of mindless persecution over the years, and Masonry will emerge once more as a blessing to the nation. I hate I will not be here to see that.

I am so thankful that I have spent all my life a citizen of this great land. I could have been born far from these shores and thus might never have experienced life here. It has been a wonderful blessing.

I could go on and on about my many blessings, for they ARE many, but it is time to stop.

So I do not, at this writing, fear death. It is a natural and inevitable process. Besides, if we believe in the promise of Christianity, what is there to fear? These brave words may fail me at the hour of reckoning, and I may expire in a sea of whining and self-pity. I hope not, for my long life of truly good fortune deserves a far better ending than any such maudlin exhibition as that.

That's it for "Something Else." Thank you, everyone, and God bless you all.